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GATES DISPUTES ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CIA  
WASHINGTON

Robert Gates, who withdrew his nomination to become CIA director, sent the Senate Intelligence Committee a letter Monday responding to what he termed "false allegations" made during his confirmation process.

Below are excerpts from the 3 -page letter:

**Allegation:** The CIA participated in a cover-up in preparing CIA Director William Casey's Nov. 21 testimony before the intelligence panel.

**Response from Gates:** "This is particularly outrageous. All available evidence substantiates my testimony that I urged getting all the facts before the committee and insisted on accuracy and advising the committee that we did not yet have all the facts Nov. 21 and would provide them as they were assembled."

**Allegation:** Gates encouraged an invasion of Libya in the summer of 1985.

**Response:** "CIA analysis prepared at my direction was the basis for rejection of this policy option."

**Allegation:** The CIA colluded with National Security Council officials in preparing a May 1985 intelligence estimate on the situation in Iran.

**Response:** "The independence and integrity of the intelligence process were preserved throughout."

**Allegation:** Gates acquiesced in the policy of selling arms to Iran and the decision not to tell Congress of the covert action.

**Response:** Gates said that when he became deputy director in April 1986, "The policy initiative had been under way for many months and the (presidential finding authorizing the arms sales) in place for three months. During the summer, I expressed my concerns to (Casey) about the effect of non-notification of Congress and about the policy. As deputy, I had no alternative to this other than resignation. I -- along with others more senior in the administration -- did not believe the policy warranted resignation."

**Allegation:** Gates turned a "blind eye" to evidence that came to him in October 1986 of possible diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

**Response:** "In my role as deputy, and with little information, I acted to assure CIA's adherence to the law, followed the advice of our lawyers, and brought what little information I had to the attention of those who could properly evaluate it and act."